

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive computer method for managing at least one project, the method comprising the steps of:

establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer software system;

activating at least two or more information modules of different types for the at least one project;

facilitating organization of and access to project information as each information module is operative to store, display, and control project information for at least two or more of of a specific type including categories of project planning, ~~establishing and tracking~~ project tasks, ~~allowing access to documents and information in any module, providing issue resolution project issues, reviewing project progress reports, tracking project finances, scheduling and attending project meetings, requesting requests for information, reporting project data, and controlling changes to project documents,~~ collaboration center, and review requests;

providing project documents to be stored, and displayed in and accessed from both the document information module and other information modules;

defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system
providing electronic data interchange for a project;

creating an electronic collaboration center as one of the information modules on the computer software system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project in an individual collaboration;

defining collaboration approved individuals for access to collaborations in the collaboration center by the authorized individuals;

defining at least one collaboration in the collaboration center associated with the at least one project to facilitate the resolution of at least one of a project issue and project problem the at least one collaboration including a collaboration leader, a collaboration topic, a collaboration status and at least one of a text based collaboration summary, and a text based collaboration status statement;

defining access to the collaboration by the collaboration approved individuals;
the collaboration containing and allowing access to all information relating to the collaboration as a central point of collaboration information;
allowing the collaboration leader to modify at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status and the collaboration status statement; ~~and~~
accepting input information at the collaboration center from the authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of at least one project issue and a project problem of the collaboration;
providing the collaboration center and individual collaborations within the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents and updating a document information module with the documents;
providing the collaboration center and individual collaborations with the capability of defining tasks as an action plan for resolution of one of the project issue and project problem and updating the project tasks information module with the defined tasks in the individual collaboration; and,
providing the collaboration center and individual collaborations with the capability of closing the collaboration to an archived state.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
allowing all authorized individuals to perform at least one of review, submit, author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals electronically in the collaboration center.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration purpose, the deadline, the collaboration action plan, and input information.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
forwarding one of a question and an issue involving at least one element of the
collaboration to be decided by all collaboration approved individuals;
accepting votes of collaboration approved individuals for the issue on at least one
element of the collaboration;
making a decision by the collaboration leader on the issue based in part on the
votes; and
displaying the results of the vote.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
maintaining and displaying at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status,
and the collaboration status statement of each collaboration.

6 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving documents
attached to authorized individual responses.

7.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and
the information modules;
generating and sending an electronic mail request to an authorized individual;
the authorized individual replying to the software system by electronic mail; and
the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents
attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the information in the
appropriate information module.

10. – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules;
generating and sending an electronic mail request to an authorized individual;
providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of the requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply;
the authorized individual replying to the software system by electronic mail; and
the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by updating the information in the appropriate information module.

35. - 40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing an electronic notepad for each authorized individual to make personal notes about any item of information in the network relating to the project; and
attaching the personal notes to associated items of information for use only by the authorized individual.

42. – 51. (Cancelled).

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

linking at least two information items in at least two different information modules for bi-directional data navigation between the at least two information items[.];and

providing a link to each of the information items allowing the authorized individual to directly navigate to the linked information item in another information module.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

defining by a project leader a plurality of organizational categories;

specifying the name of one authorized individual as the request recipient for each defined organization category for the purpose of defining individuals to which project requests for information relating to the respective organizational category will be routed; and

routing a request for information relating to at least one organizational category from at least one authorized individual to the first request recipient for the organizational category

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

issuing a request for project review by an authorized project individual;

designating a plurality of designated recipients of the review request by an authorized individual;

providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated review recipients;

providing for the delivery of the review request to the designated recipients in one of:

directly in parallel providing each of the designated recipients with the capability of one of replying to the review request directly, delegating the review request to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review, and delegating the request for review to a designated recipient with the designated recipient's response routed to the designated recipient for review prior to delivery to the requestor;

and to a designated first recipient directly;

providing the first designated recipient of one of replying to the review request for direct delivery, delegating the request for review to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review delegating the request for review to a designated recipient with the designated recipient's response routed to the first designated recipient for review prior to the requestor; and

serially delegating the review request to a next designated recipient having the same reply and delegating options to deliver a reply to requestor.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
defining at least one of collaboration purpose, a collaboration action plan and
deadline for the collaboration.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the linked information modules are at least two of an information module project plan, an information module task manager, an information module issue manager and an information module collaboration center.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 further comprising the steps of:
providing a project plan having a plurality of items;
linking each item to a set of tasks;
linking any item and task to an issue describing a problem and a call for action; and

linking all of the information and actions associated with the issue to the tasks and the project plan item.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising the step of:
linking all of the information and actions associated with the issue to the collaboration.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
providing a summary view of the information related to the collaboration.